Met Office 3-month Outlook

Period: July – September 2019 Issue date: 27.06.19

The forecast presented here is for July and the average of the July-August-September period for the United Kingdom as a whole. The forecast for July will be superseded by the long-range information on the public weather forecast web page (www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/#?tab=regionalForecast), starting from 5 July 2019.

This forecast is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement.

SUMMARY – TEMPERATURE:

For July and July-August-September as a whole, above-average temperatures are more likely than below-average temperatures.

Overall, the probability that the UK-average temperature for July-August-September will fall into the coldest of our five categories is 5% and the probability that it will fall into the warmest of our five categories is between 35 and 40% (the 1981-2010 probability for each of these categories is 20%).

CONTEXT:

Sea surface temperatures in the Tropical Pacific Ocean remain close to El Niño thresholds. Long-range forecast systems show little chance of the emergence of a significant El Niño or La Niña in the coming months, so there is not expected to be an influence on UK weather patterns through the period of this outlook.

The pattern of sea surface temperature anomalies in the North Atlantic Ocean slightly increases the probability of higher-than-average pressure across Northern Europe. These patterns are similar to, but not as well defined as, those at this time last year. As a result, the influence of these features is likely to be smaller. During summer, high pressure is usually associated with warmer-than-average conditions.

For July and July-August-September as a whole, long-range forecast systems from around the world, including the Met Office system, show small and rather mixed surface pressure signals. This implies that the chances of a generally settled or more unsettled season are fairly well balanced. Despite this, climate warming leads to an increased likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions compared to the long-term average (see figure T2).

The relatively high probability of our warmest category does not imply hot weather throughout the 3-month period. The likelihood of a 3-month long heatwave is very small. Heatwaves are part of the day-to-day weather and the outlook does not identify weather for a particular day or week. The increased likelihood of warm conditions through this period could mean more days with temperatures that are above average to a more modest degree. As stated above, there is just as much chance of a generally unsettled 3-month period as of more settled conditions. Above-average temperatures can arise from a range of types of weather, not just sunny and dry conditions.

Fig T1

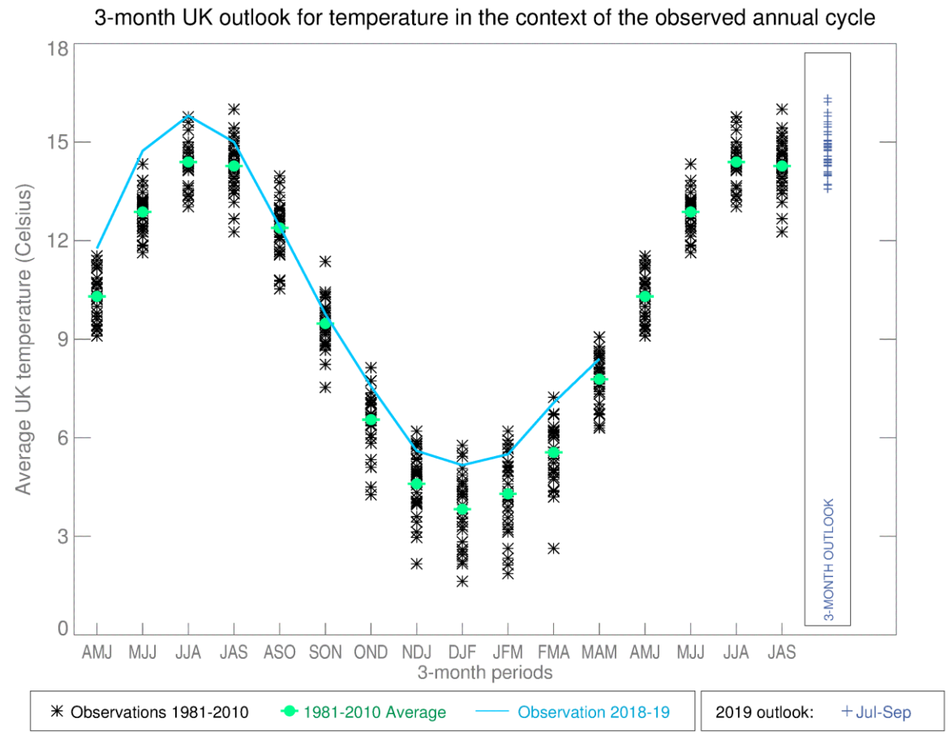


Fig T2

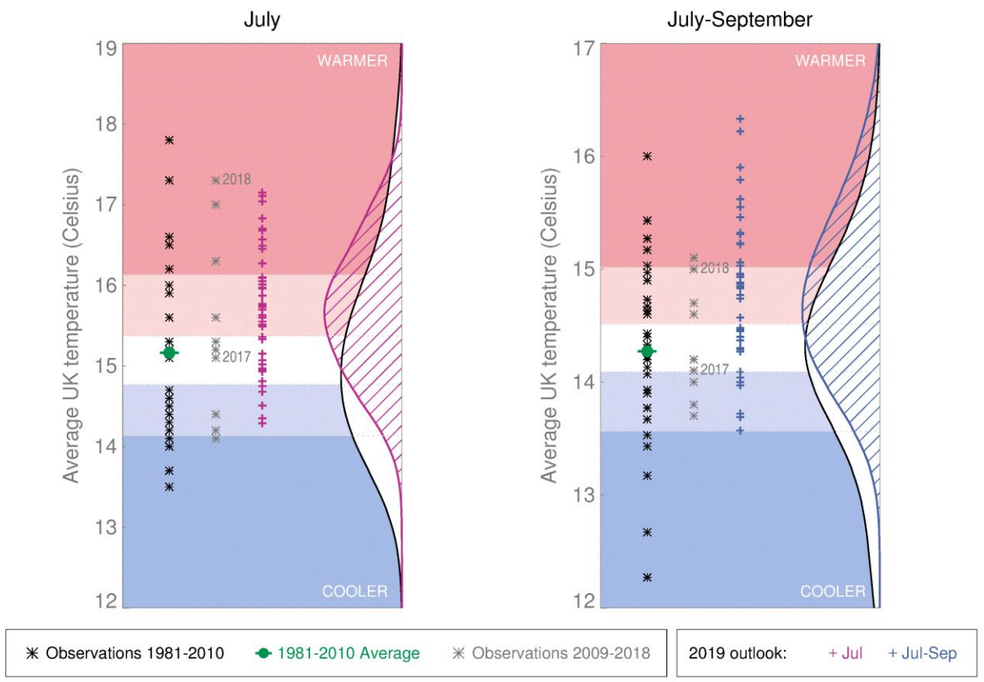
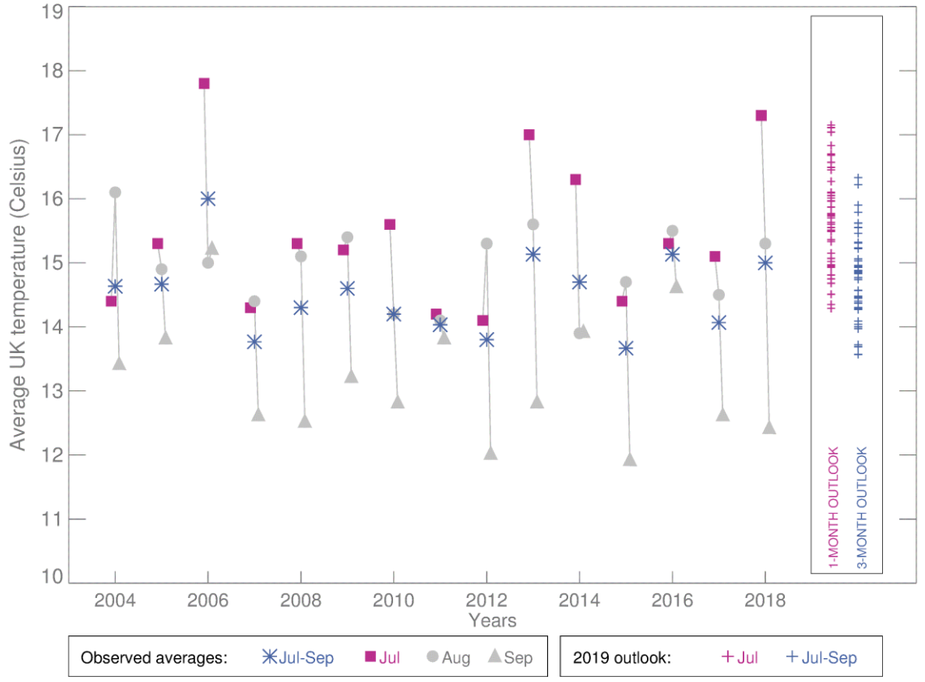


Fig T3


1-month and 3-month UK outlook for temperature in the context of recent climatology: year-to-year and within-season variability
Average UK temperature (Celsius)
2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Years
1-MONTH OUTLOOK
3-MONTH OUTLOOK
Observed averages: Jul-Sep Jul Aug Sep
2019 outlook: + Jul + Jul-Sep

This Outlook provides an indication of possible temperature and rainfall conditions over the next 3 months. It is part of a suite of forecasts designed for contingency planners.

The Outlook should not be used in isolation but should be used with shorter-range and more detailed (30-day, 15-day and 1-to-7-day) forecasts and warnings available to the contingency planning community from the Met Office.